REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action of October 21, 2004 (hereinafter "Office Action"). In response, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 6, 13, and 20 to incorporate recitations from dependent Claims 2, 7, 14, and 21, respectively, which include recitations directed to a policy database. Accordingly, Applicant has canceled Claims 2, 7, 14, and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer and has amended various other dependent claims to correct their dependencies in light of the cancellation of Claims 2, 7, 14, and 21. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference fails to disclose at least the recitations of the independent claims as amended. Accordingly, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested for at least the reasons discussed hereafter.

Claims 3, 5, 15, and 22 Satisfy 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 5 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the recitation "business requirements" is allegedly not clear. Applicant believes that the Examiner probably meant to reject Claims 3, 5, 15, and 22 as these are the claims that include the recitation "business requirements." In response, Applicant has deleted the "business requirements" recitation and respectfully submits that Claims 3, 5, 15, and 22 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Independent Claims 1, 6, 13, and 20 are Patentable

Independent Claims 1, 6, 13, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,012,088 to Li et al. (hereinafter "Li"). As discussed above, independent Claims 1, 6, 13, and 20 have been amended to include recitations from dependent Claims 2, 7, 14, and 21, respectively, which include recitations directed to a policy database. For example, Claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

> an end service domain that associates the service with an end service
> provider, the end service domain comprising:
> a plurality of wholesale service domains, respective ones of the
> plurality of wholesale service domains comprising at least one network that

provides traffic transport for the end service domain;

a plurality of gateways, wherein at least a first one of the plurality of gateways couples one of the plurality of wholesale service domains to another one of the wholesale service domains and is configured to perform protocol translation on traffic passing between the coupled wholesale service domains, and wherein at least a second one of the plurality of gateways is configured to couple a user to the end service domain and is further configured to communicate with the user by a protocol associated with the service;

a process domain that provides an abstract representation of applications provided by the end service domain;

a service management system that is communicatively coupled to the end service domain, the service management system comprising:

a plurality of software objects that represent resources in the end service domain for providing the service; and

a policy database that comprises rules for associating requirements of the service with resources in the end service domain.

Claims 6, 13, and 20 include similar recitations. In rejecting Claim 2, for example, the Office Action cites col. 9, lines 50 - 64 as disclosing the policy database. This passage from Li, however, appears to describe a database that is used to collect customer information that can be used to generate a configuration file to configure a customer device for use. In sharp contrast, the policy database recited in Claims 1, 6, 13, and 20 is described as comprising rules for associating requirements of a service with resources in an end service domain or associating requirements of a service with a plurality of resources. Applicant respectfully submits that Li does not appear to contain any disclosure or suggestion of a database that includes rules for associating service requirements with resources in an end service domain and/or a plurality of resources. As discussed above, the database described in Li appears to be used to generate a configuration file for a single Internet access device based on information collected from a customer.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 6, 13, and 20 are patentable over Li and that Claims 3 - 5, 8 - 12, 15 - 19, and 22 - 26 are patentable at least per the patentability of independent Claims 1, 6, 13, and 20.
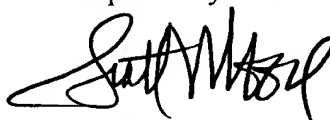
CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the

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above-entitled application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Scott Moore
Registration No. 42,011

Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.
P. O. Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: (919) 854-1400
Facsimile: (919) 854-1401
Customer No. 20792

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 21, 2005.

Traci A. Brown